

THE CHAMPION

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No. 25

THE STATE PRESS

OCALA. THEIR ANNUAL MEETING.

The State Press annual meeting at Ocala this year, on May 15, is already ancient history. We have been so busy sight seeing and traveling that few of us have had time to write. But we mean to get round to speak of it sooner or later.

The number of editors who attended the meeting was disappointing to the Ocala people. They had figured up that the 200 papers of the state might all be represented. Probably forty editors were there. Of these, only three came in late in the session. Only one arrived the evening when we started for our outing in North Florida.

The sessions of the editors were held in the Elk's hall, which was prettily decorated for the occasion.

A number of excellent papers were read on topics of interest to the editors, and several speeches made. The Ocala Banner published in its issue of the 31st these papers in full, and also a report of the business session of Wednesday and Thursday. In the absence of President W. Wilson, Vice-President J. C. Lusk was chairman and in his happy manner made every moment pass pleasantly.

A hopeful telegraphic message was read from the absent president, W. Wilson, who is at Hot Springs, Arkansas, for his health. He is well known among the members of the Press, Mr. Wilson's health is very precarious from a long illness. He says it will take him at least a month before he is able to return to his office, but that he will be with us at the next meeting.

During the literary part of our session, the generous citizens of Ocala treated us to a carriage drive to the Springs, one of the most beautiful attractions of Florida. During the drive the visitors were taken in boats out on the lake and the Oklawaha river for a short trip. The drive back to Ocala was by way of the convict camp and hospital of S. A. Rawls, which is leased a part of the state land, and has demonstrated by its efficient handling and humane treatment that there may yet be something worth living for altho a convict. The prisoners are given neat beds and comfortable food and every care necessary for their well-being. The large farm is in fine crops and orchards are in fruit, that will soon be a source of enjoyment.

Most enjoyable part of the trip was the Palmetto Stock Farm, owned by Munroe & Co. Mr. Chambliss in charge welcomed the editors and showed with pride his fine short horn cattle that are a testimony as to what can be done in fine stock raising in Florida. The farms in succession of hills which resemble one of the middle states is a surprise to those who have been in south Florida where a novelty.

Thursday evening quite an extensive crowd of citizens and many friends attended and enjoyed the program with us. The musical selections by local

The Official Returns

	Hooker	Jordan	Livingston	Williams
Fort Green.....	11	8		
Wauchula.....	7	320		
Lily.....	27	19		
Pine Level.....	39	2		
Charlotte Harbor.....	1	47		
Grove City.....	1	8		
Punta Gorda.....	2	230		
Ft. Ogden.....	48	51		
Arcadia.....	511	23	227	298
Crewsville.....	29	20		
Zolfo.....	58	72		
Venus.....	13	5		
Bassinger.....	6	1	5	1
Avon Park.....	22	26		
Bowling Green.....	141	15		
Gardner.....	43	13	28	30
Nocatee.....	33	18	32	19
Owens.....	55	5		
Cleveland.....	0	33		
Oak Hill.....	40	0		
Lake Stearns.....	3	3	2	6
Horse Creek.....	3	13		
Ona.....	7	34		
Total.....	1100	966	294	364

talent enlivened the exercises, and after the closing everybody was invited to another room where refreshments consisting of ham sandwiches, cake and fruit punch were served, to the hungry.

On Thursday the meeting was held in the morning and was mostly for closing up the business. The election of officers resulted in the following: President, C. L. Bittinger; vice-president, J. H. Humphries; secretary, T. J. Appleyard, and treasurer, J. W. White. The next meeting will be held in Key West some time next winter when a trip to Havana will be the outing.

J. C. Lusk, Division Passenger Agent of the Southern Railway, came down to Ocala and through our secretary made the necessary arrangements for our trip over his road to the mountains of North Carolina, and on Thursday afternoon we left for Jacksonville, arriving in time to secure the transportation and Pullman reservations and make the start for the mountains. But of this later.

The Morgan Building.

The stone work on the L. L. Morgan three story building was completed Wednesday. This is Arcadia's first three story building and is a credit to our growing city. It is to be the home of Mr. Morgan's thriving hardware and furniture business and shows commendable enterprise on the part of the owner.

Base Ball.

The Base Ball game on the Arcadia diamond between the Bartow boys and our home nine last Friday afternoon was a hotly contested one and a good one. The Arcadia boys beat the score standing six and seven at the finish. The game was witnessed by a large crowd that yelled itself hoarse in their enthusiasm and appreciation. The Bartow boys went home feeling that they had been well treated. The Arcadia nine will play the return game at Bartow in a few days.

OUR NEIGHBORS

INTERESTING NEWS OF NEARBY COMMUNITIES.

Bowling Green.

EDITOR CHAMPION: We notice in last week's issue of the Advocate the editor rather takes exception to us "booming" our town as the banner water melon town of South Florida, and that we are inclined to want to detract from our sister town, Wauchula. In this we would say the editor is mistaken. We are certainly "doing the melon business" here in fine shape and claim the glory of being the first in that line.

We haven't a newspaper here, so it is left to our citizens to "blow our horn." We rejoice with Wauchula in her prospering and we are glad it was through Wauchula that the "champion water melon grower," Mr. J. M. Tucker and the "champion orange grower," Mr. A. E. Berry, came to South Florida, and we are further glad that they, with Mr. Sealey, Mr. Graddy, Mr. Erwin, Mr. Rainey and others saw the resources of Bowling Green and finally cast their lot with us.

If we but had the Advocate with us as many years, as it has been with Wauchula we believe we could count more noses than they did at the last election. Our town cast one hundred fifty-six votes in the last election and we have only one half mile of territory north of us to the Polk county line.

We mention in way of real estate transfers this week, J. L. Bryan has purchased the two houses of A. H. Buck near Christian Church O. E. Rudisell, also F. L. Vogler makes a purchase of J. R. Thornton. A. J. Wilson purchased the Tucker property of A. E. Berry. A. O. Graddy buys the Paisly property.

Our melon shipments up to the present time number well up to 90

cars tho unable to learn exact amount.

J. R. Vaughan has on exhibition at his store a water melon weighing sixty pounds, grown by J. R. Best and fertilized with Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company's goods. This melon was grown with others on the vine, and Mr. Vaughan says is the best advertisement for his company's goods that he can get.

Royal B. Child and Levi McCullers were visitors with us this week.

S. B. Hogan left for points in Alabama this week, to be gone some weeks.

Mrs. A. O. Graddy and children also Miss Rebecca Jones, left for a visit in Kentucky Tuesday.

School Board Proceedings.

Arcadia, Fla., June 5th, 1906. The Board of Public Instruction met in regular session. Members present, T. R. Starke; Wm. R. Marshall and Jos. H. Brown, secretary.

Minutes read and approved. Owing to some irregularities in the Special Elections held at Owens, Ft. Winder and Hull, respectively, the returns were rejected, and Special Elections re-ordered as follows:

Owens, Friday, June 29, 1906. Inspectors: M. Lanier, J. H. Langford, J. F. Nickolson; clerk, G. Johnson.

Ft. Winder, Saturday, June 30, 1906. Inspectors: C. A. Addison, W. D. Waterson, J. F. Beasley; clerk, Eldred Mizell.

Hull, Saturday, June 30, 1906. Inspectors: J. L. Mitchell, H. H. Cowart, T. Smith; clerk, B. F. Stewart.

A petition received from the patrons of Live Oak School No. 18, for an appropriation for building material, was granted to the amount of \$200, to be paid when deeds and other necessary arrangements are made.

A petition received from the citizens of Bee Branch, for the establishment of a school was granted, and W. J. Tillet was appointed supervisor.

A petition received from the citizens of Vine Land, for an appropriation for a new building, was deferred for future development.

A petition received from the citizens of Harbor View, for the establishment of a school, was rejected, as it was within the three mile limit prohibited by law.

J. E. Whidden, having resigned as trustee of Oak Hill School No. 8, upon the recommendation of H. Wuthrich, by the patrons, he (H. Wuthrich) was appointed trustee for the unexpired term.

Upon the recommendation of the patrons of the Sweetwater school, No. 31, M. T. Bond was appointed supervisor.

Treasurer's report received and approved.

Accounts audited and warrants issued from No. 344 to 356 inclusive, from the general fund, and from No. 284 to No. 297 from the special fund.

Board adjourned June 6th, 1906, to meet July the 3rd, 1906.

J. H. BROWN, Secretary.
WM. P. MARSHALL, Chairman

This part of Florida is now enjoying "sho nuff" rainy season weather these days. A cool refreshing rain most every day.

EDITOR'S OUTING

WHERE THEY WENT, WHAT THEY SAW, ETC.

The members of the Florida State Press Association had been promised a fine trip this summer in lieu of the one they did not take last year on account of the yellow fever scare, and they were not disappointed in the one mapped out and executed by J. C. Lusk, of Jacksonville, the genial district passenger agent of the Southern Railway. Mr. Lusk not only planned for us, but he secured reduced rates on Pullmans, hotels, etc., and presented outright passes to the editorial party that started on Thursday night, May 31 for "The Land of the Sky," otherwise known as the "Beautiful Sapphire Country of North Carolina."

By the Southern Railway one may leave Jacksonville and twelve hours later be among the Blue Ridge Mountains. We did not, however, travel quite so fast for our itinerary included a stop of a few hours at Columbia, the Capitol of South Carolina. We passed Savannah in the night while wrapped in dreams. We realized that we had reached South Carolina, the home of Senator Ben Tillman and the dispensary, at about eight o'clock on the morning of June 1st when the train stopped at Columbia and we rushed out to breakfast, a remarkably good one, with most obliging waiters. I have forgotten the name of the restaurant that fed us, but remember the stairs by which we reached it and the generous way we were treated while there. We viewed with interest a State Dispensary located near by and were reminded of the fact that the introduction of this way of treating the liquor question was fought equally by liquor dealers and the temperance people, and now opinions differ as to whether the dispensary is after all an improvement over the licensed saloons. But we Florida editors did not let such vexed questions disturb our exuberance and the jolly good humor, that a good breakfast and pleasant traveling companions inspire.

Those of an investigating turn started out to see the city, some on foot and others by way of street cars. The city is beautifully located its principal buildings being on elevated plateaus, plentifully sprinkled with lordly forest trees. The business streets are lively and buildings good, and left in our minds a pleasant memory of our fleeting visit. It became known somehow that the Florida editors were in the city and representative citizens waited upon us with a request that they be allowed to entertain us, but our party was already scattered and we could accept no invitations as we would start onward as soon as they would be gathered.

At noon our Pullman was taken up by the regular train and we steadily climbed upward toward the Blue Ridge mountains. We passed numerous beautiful cities, the largest being Spartanburg. It was shortly after passing the latter that we caught our first glimpse of the mountains and from that time on every one was on the alert to view the most of scenery through which were passing. The gradual

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